

REMARKS

Claims 6-12 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 6-10 and 12 have been amended to further clarify the claimed invention.

Objection to the Abstract

The Examiner objects to the abstract because it is directed to an apparatus. Applicants have replaced the abstract to reflect a method. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the objection.

Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 6, 7, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,696,864). Applicants traverse these rejections because Smith et al. fails to disclose or suggest all of the claim limitations. Specifically, Smith et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least a self-support fiber optic cable in claims 6 and 12.

The cable in Smith et al. is supported by a strand 12 (or messenger), just like the prior art described in the Background of the Invention. See page 1, par. [0003].

In addition, the Examiner asserts that the clamp is cable support 21 and clamp 22, the fiber optic cable is communications cable 18 and the bail is strand 12. However, cable support 21 cannot be the claimed clamp because it is not connected to a bail (or strand 12). Likewise, clamp 22 is not connected to the cable 18. For at least these reasons, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the prior art rejections.

Regarding claims 7 and 10, they should be allowable at least based on their dependence from claim 6 for the reasons described above.

The Examiner has rejected claims 8, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al. in view of Forrester et al. or AAPA. Applicants traverse these rejections because the cited references fails to disclose or suggest all of the claim limitations. In addition, one of skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the teachings of Smith and Forrester.

First, these claims should be allowable based on their dependence from claim 6 for the reasons described above. In addition, regarding claim 8, although Forrester mentions an ADSS cable, one of skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Smith to use an ADSS cable. The Examiner refers to col. 1, lines 9-11 of Forrester for providing the reason to use an ADSS cable, i.e., “strength and application in close proximity to a power line.” However, in Smith et al. the communications cable 18 is already right next to the power cable 16. Therefore, there would be no need to use a self-supporting cable.

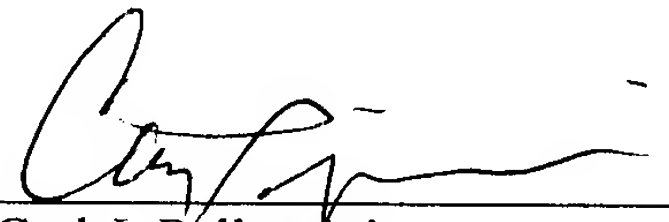
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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